

1995

Biddle, Livingston: National Medal of Arts (1995): Correspondence 01

Claiborne Pell

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
HUMAN RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

December 20, 1995

The Hon. Livingston Biddle
3050 P Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Liv:

So many thanks for your letter and the very interesting proposal to initiate a mechanism to recognize deserving arts organizations that, in better financial times, would have received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. I fully support your idea.

Without question, NEA grants have served to stimulate grants and contributions from the private sector. It is most unfortunate that many organizations will now suffer further financial losses due to the federal budget cuts. Often these are the very same arts groups who are doing the most to reach the widest audiences and keep prices down so that all might benefit and enjoy.

The Endowment, by necessity, will have to increase the number of meritorious applicants it rejects. Your concept of a National Excellence Award and small stipend would show that the Endowment still considers their programs to be important and wishes to encourage their support from other sources.

With all best wishes for a Merry Christmas to you and Catharina, and warm regards.

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Education,
Arts and Humanities

cc. Ms. Jane Alexander